United Nations E/C.2/1999/2/Add.10

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
10 February 1999
English
Original: English/French

Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations
1999 session
Item 4 of the provisional agenda
Review of quadrennial reports submitted by non-governmental organizations in general and special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

Quadrennial reports, 1994–1997, submitted through the Secretary-General pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31

Note by the Secretary-General

Addendum

Contents

		Page
1.	Coalition against Trafficking in Women	2
2.	International Federation of Settlements and Neighborhood Centres	3
3.	International Federation of Social Workers	4
4.	International Federation of Women Lawyers	7
5.	International Institute for Non-Aligned Studies	9
6.	International Institute of Administrative Sciences	11
7.	International Law Association	13
8.	International League for Human Rights	14
9.	International Movement for Fraternal Union among Races and Peoples (UFER)	16
10.	International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (EAFORD)	18
11.	International Organization of Employers	20
12.	International Road Transport Union	21

99-03590 (E) 260399 200499

1. Coalition against Trafficking in Women

(Special consultative status granted 1989)

The Coalition against Trafficking in Women (CATW) is an international network and NGO which promotes women's human rights. Founded in 1988, the Coalition works internationally to bring attention to all forms of sexual exploitation, including sex trafficking, prostitution, pornography, sex tourism and mail order bride selling.

The aims of the Coalition are to work with national and international policy makers, and women's rights and human rights advocates, to promote the fundamental right of women to be free from sexual exploitation. With the support of UNESCO, the Coalition has drafted and is in the process of circulating a proposed convention against sexual exploitation. The Coalition's representatives testify before national policy and legislative bodies and various United Nations committees, and serve as consultants to governmental and non-governmental groups drafting new legislation against all forms of sexual exploitation. The Coalition also serves as a clearing house of information and documentation on violations of women's human rights.

The Coalition against Trafficking in Women is an umbrella organization that both initiates programmes and takes direction from its regional coalitions now in existence in Africa, Asia, Australia, Europe, Latin America and North America. From 1994 to the present, regional networks have been added in the Latin American, African and Australian regions. Affiliation of other organizations with the Coalition has expanded to over 500 members.

From 1994 to 1997, the Coalition has actively participated in a wide range of NGO and governmental meetings in connection with United Nations conferences and meetings. The Coalition consistently attends both CEDAW and Commission on the Status of Women meetings during January and March each year in New York. In 1994, the president of the Board of Directors of the Coalition, Aurora Javate de Dios, was appointed the official representative of the Government of the Philippines to CEDAW and in 1997 she became CEDAW Rapporteur. The Coalition also sends a representative to meetings of the Commission on Human Rights and its Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery at Geneva. From 1995 to 1997, the Coalition has also consistently participated in the NGO Committee on the Rights of the Child meetings at Geneva, where our representative has actively joined the working groups on the optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and the sub-group on children in armed conflict.

In 1994 and 1995, the Coalition was actively involved in setting up a historic agreement to combat trafficking in women between the Governments of the Philippines and Belgium. This first bilateral accord opposing the global sex trade in women committed considerable resources to legal initiatives and programmes of research, education and social services directed to eradicating trafficking and prostitution of women.

During this same time period, the Coalition issued a report to the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, responding to her 1995 preliminary report addressing, among other aspects of violence against women, sex trafficking and prostitution. In September 1995, four representatives of the Coalition met with Special Rapporteur Coomaraswamy in Beijing to discuss our concerns with her.

The Coalition's work with other NGOs in consultative status continues to grow. In 1994, the Coalition joined the International Abolitionist Federation in holding their thirty-first international congress at Bucharest. Organized in collaboration with 17 Romanian women's groups, the Congress was one of the first Eastern European meetings on the mass sexual exploitation of women and girls from Eastern Europe The work of the Coalition has been enhanced by its coordinated activities with other NGOs in consultative status, such as the International Federation of Human Rights and the Third World Movement Against the Exploitation of Women. In preparation for the Fourth World Conference on Women, the Coalition participated in an international expert meeting on violence, sexual exploitation of human beings and international action, held at Seoul, Republic of Korea in June 1995. Composed of 30 experts and observers from each world region, the conference was organized by the Korean Women's Development Institute and UNESCO.

The key Coalition project during 1995 concerned the Fourth World Conference on Women held in Beijing. There, the Coalition brought together many other NGOs from the various world regions of Latin America, Asia, Africa, North America and Europe to participate in the Coalition's day-long NGO forum, funded by UNESCO. Speakers included NGO representatives from Chile, Japan, Tunisia, the Philippines, India, the United States of America, Canada, Belgium, France, Mali and Venezuela. Attended by over 300 people, the forum was entitled "Sexual exploitation worldwide: sex trafficking, sex tourism and prostitution, a global human rights crisis". The Coalition was also

accredited to attend the Conference, where it lobbied official delegates on behalf of the new convention.

In March 1996, a representative of the Coalition addressed a jointly sponsored UNESCO and French Government conference in Paris on violence against women throughout the world. As a training conference for French governmental personnel on legislation, public policy and types of interventions against violence against women, this was a key event for the work of the Coalition.

The following month, representatives of the Coalition attended a Brasilia seminar against the sexual exploitation of children and adolescents in the Americas, sponsored by UNICEF, a preparatory meeting for the August 1996 Stockholm meeting against child sexual exploitation. Five representatives of CATW then attended the World Congress on the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in Sweden, sponsored by UNICEF, End Child Prostitution in Asian Tourism, and the NGO Group on the Convention on the Rights of the Child, in cooperation with the Government of Sweden.

In December 1996, Coalition Co-Director Dorchen Leidholdt and a survivor of the sex industry addressed s special session of the General Assembly to commemorate the abolition of slavery and the adoption of a resolution against the traffic in women and girls. The Coalition was the only NGO to address this special session, and arranged, for the first time, that a survivor of trafficking and prostitution speak before the entire Assembly. Also in December 1996, the Coalition, in partnership with the Human Rights Information and Documentation System, held a 10-day training course for 18 women from 13 Asian countries on human rights information handling and management.

In May 1997, two Coalition representatives attended the United States State and Justice Departments training meeting on sex trafficking from the Russian Federation at Washington, D.C. In addition, the Coalition has also developed an extensive on-line resource and documentation centre, and has initiated one of the first research projects documenting how new technologies, primarily the Internet, are being used to traffic women and children.

Key national legislation on prostitution and violence against women in Sweden and Venezuela uses the principles and language of the Coalition's draft convention against sexual exploitation. In both countries, the Coalition has been either a forceful presence or has consulted with important governmental representatives to significantly affect the outcome of new national policy and legislation.

2. International Federation of Settlements and Neighborhood Centres

(General consultative status granted 1998)

The International Federation of Settlements and Neighborhood Centres is an international organization founded in July 1926. IFS has no affiliation to any non-governmental organization already in status.

IFS is a voluntary association of community-based multi-purpose organizations working to strengthen communities in society. Membership has increased substantially in the last four years. It now represents over 4,500 local organizations, ranging from small self-help groups to large agencies with over 200 staff, which actively address the full range of social, economic, cultural, educational and environmental needs in their communities. Members of IFS are now in 44 countries, including almost all the Eastern European countries and countries in transition. Its membership is comprised of full members, which are national federations and associations of settlements, neighborhood centres or similar bodies, including 15 national federations representing about 14 million people in 12 countries, and four regional and local federations, each representing at least 40 local organizations. Affiliated members are single settlements, neighborhood centres or similar bodies. In addition, IFS has corporate associates which are not necessarily multipurpose but work in some IFS fields of activities and want to support its work. It also encourages individuals who are interested in IFS activities and want to support its work, and encourages individuals who are interested in IFS activities to become individual members (non-voting).

Since submitting its last quadrennial report, IFS has made substantial changes in its structure as well as in its method of work. While its headquarters remain in London, it is now incorporated as a not-for-profit corporation in New York State, and maintains regional offices at Berlin (for Europe), in New York (for the Americas) and in Israel (for the Middle East, Far East and Africa). A Board of Directors (instead of a Council) determines policy and directs the Executive Director (formerly the Secretary General). A General Assembly, which meets biennially, elects the Board and sets programme priorities for the next two years. The last General Assembly was held at Helsinki from 10 to 15 June 1996, and the next session will be held in Israel in December 1998, where a new Board and officers will be elected. The current officers are as follows:

President: Emily Menlo Marks, United Neighborhood Houses of New York;

Executive Director: John Matthews, Bassac, London;

Vice President for the Americas: Bernard Wohl, Goddard Riverside Community Center, New York;

Vice President for Europe: Martine Egele, Federation de France, Strasbourg;

Vice President for the Middle East, Asia and Africa: Yaron Sokolov, Association of Community Centers, Jerusalem;

Treasurer: Brian Smith, Woodgreen Community Center, Toronto;

Secretary: Niko De Jong, De Twern, Tilburg, the Netherlands.

In addition to Board meetings and special conferences held in conjunction with Board meetings, IFS now operates through quarterly meetings of its Eurogroup (consisting of representatives from almost all the Eastern European countries and those in transition, as well as most of the Western European members) and annual meetings of its Americas group. An African group is in formation. There has been no substantial change in its sources of funding, which consist of members' dues, foundation grants, legacies, loans and personal contributions. Several Governments, including the Netherlands, Sweden, Germany and Canada, have contributed funds and in-kind support for the expenses of regional and international seminars, workshops and conferences.

IFS aims to promote cooperation among community organizations in different nations and to represent their diverse interests, such as through its consultative status with the Council and its subsidiary bodies and the Council of Europe, as well as its membership in the European Poverty Programme. Its programme priorities for the next two years are community organization and partnership, elimination of poverty, and development of youth empowerment.

IFS has participated in all of the sessions of the Council and its subsidiary bodies during 1994 to 1997, as well as meetings of the preparatory committees and recent major Conferences convened by the United Nations. IFS has, in almost all cases, submitted written statements, and has been permitted to speak both in plenary and working group sessions. During the past four years, as part of the follow-up to the various Conferences, IFS took an active role in the work of: the Commission on Sustainable Development, the Commission on Social Development, the Commission on the Status of Women, the Commission on Population and Development, the Open-ended Working Group on the Review of Arrangements for Consultation with the United Nations of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, and the Commission on Human Rights. In 1998, it also sent an expert on migration to a United Nations technical symposium on migration and a youth representative to the recent Lisbon Conference for Ministers of Youth. It took an active role in the nineteenth special session of the General Assembly, which reviewed the implementation of Agenda 21. IFS has participated in United Nations regional meetings and served in a consultant capacity to United Nations bodies, including the United Nations Secretariat, UNICEF, UNIFEM and various specialized agencies.

IFS works with CONGO and many of its committees, both on substantive issues and on procedural questions, such as representation of NGOs in the work of the United Nations. IFS is a Board member of CONGO, and a representative of IFS serves as Chair of the CONGO Committee on Social Development, and of the social development caucus, which raises social issues at the meetings of the Commission on Sustainable Development. The NGO Committee on Social Development held daily briefings at the 1997 session of the Commission on Social Development.

At the national and local levels, IFS, through its member organizations, provides and monitors social service programmes as well as dealing with neighbourhood improvement, housing, improvement of sanitation and public health, local medical services, nursing, health and mental health, education, employment, day care for children and adults, arts and recreation.

IFS supports the work of member organizations by developing international cooperation projects; providing practical advice and information; organizing training and exchanges; helping to assess needs and achievements; and representing their interests and concerns.

3. International Federation of Social Workers

(Special consultative status granted 1959)

Since submitting its last quadrennial report in June 1994, the International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW) has increased its membership to 61 national associations of social workers globally, with a total of more than 430,000 professional social workers as members in the member associations. A geographical breakdown of our membership

is attached. The Federation was founded in 1956, but has a history going back to 1928. Funding is mainly provided by membership dues (83 per cent) but also by conference income and support from individuals, mainly social workers.

The four main aims of IFSW are:

(a) To promote social work as a profession through cooperation and action on an international basis, especially regarding professional values, standards, ethics, human rights, recognition, training and working conditions;

(b) To promote the establishment of national associations of social workers and support the participation of social workers in social planning, and the formulation of social policies, nationally and internationally;

(c) To encourage and facilitate contacts between social workers of all countries and provide means for discussion and the exchange of ideas, through meetings, study visits, research projects, exchanges, publications and other methods of communication;

(d) To present the point of view of the profession on an international level by establishing and maintaining relations with international organizations, governmental or voluntary, operating in or interested in social planning, social development, social action and welfare programmes.

Human rights

IFSW commitment to the protection and advancement of human rights has been strengthened not only by the work of its own human rights commission, intervening on behalf of social workers and others who are persecuted and imprisoned, but also by the close cooperation with the Centre for Human Rights of the United Nations at Geneva. This cooperation led to a manual for schools of social work and the social work profession entitled "Teaching and learning about human rights", published by the Centre for Human Rights in 1992. The manual is widely distributed to social workers and educational institutions throughout the world. It has also been used at many conferences and workshops. Currently, a sequel to the manual is being prepared on the Convention on the Rights of the Child and Social Work, also in cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights at Geneva. With financial support from UNICEF and the European Union, we are at this time also working on a follow-up to the World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, held at Stockholm in August 1996: a manual for professionals on effective social strategies to address sexual exploitation. IFSW has also been accredited to and followed the sessions of the Commission on Human Rights. Several statements to the Commission have been issued.

Cooperation with the United Nations

Throughout the period 1994–1997, IFSW has continued to organize cooperation with the United Nations by a network of representatives, based at Geneva, New York and Vienna. One of the most important tasks of representatives is to inform our membership about United Nations initiatives, programmes and projects to increase awareness and knowledge among social workers worldwide, and thus inspire implementation and change. Also, country-related documents received from the United Nations are distributed to member associations to keep them updated on United Nations activities. Each year, our team of representatives invite social workers in New York and beyond to what is called social work day at the United Nations. The day is held at United Nations Headquarters in New York, and focuses on a theme related to social work and United Nations activities. Since the start of preparations for the International Year of Older Persons in 1999, our main representative to the United Nations in New York has been especially active in planning and holding meetings, both in New York and elsewhere in the world. IFSW is also an active participant at the annual DPI/NGO conferences.

Some highlights of cooperation in this quadrennium are:

1994

(a) Participated at the International Conference on Population and Development at Cairo,

(b) Addressed the second meeting of the Preparatory Committee for the World Summit for Social Development (New York, 22 August–2 September);

(c) Informed membership about the International Year of the Family, and participated in the activities of the year, especially at Vienna. IFSW was designated as "International Year of the Family Patron" by the Coordinator;

1995

(d) Arranged a conference on human rights and development at Manila, with support from the Centre for Human Rights at Geneva. A statement from the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, José Ayala-Lasso, was presented, identifying social workers as being in a position to influence the human rights of others. Some 150 social workers and human rights activists from all over Asia and the Pacific participated in the event, based on the above-mentioned manual;

(e) Active involvement in the NGO preparations for and participated in the World Summit for Social Development at Copenhagen. A special edition of our newsletter on social work and the core issues of the Summit, covering poverty, employment and social inclusion, was widely distributed, including to the national delegations to the Summit. The IFSW President addressed the Main Committee. Information was provided to member associations;

(f) Participated in a delegation to the Fourth World Conference on Women at Beijing;

(g) IFSW main representative to the United Nations at Geneva was elected as President of the NGO Committee on UNICEF;

(h) Informed membership about the International Year of Tolerance;

1996

(i) Informed membership about the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty;

(j) Participated in the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) at Istanbul;

1997

(k) Special focus on UNICEF publications and United Nations reforms in the IFSW newsletter.

Newsletter information to social workers worldwide

IFSW is continuing to inform its membership and other readers about United Nations activities and initiatives in the Federation's newsletter, published three times a year. Coverage of news from the United Nations is part of every edition. The newsletter is sent to many United Nations offices, including the Non-Governmental Organizations Section and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. A special edition was published in connection with the World Summit for Social Development, focusing on social work contributions to the three core issues of the Summit — poverty, employment and social integration.

Conferences focusing on United Nations initiatives

In addition, the Federation's world conferences for social workers (Colombo, Sri Lanka, 1994, on conflict resolution and family policy; and Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of China, 1996, on social development) always focus on several topics related to United Nations initiatives. The regional seminars have also concentrated on areas linked to different United Nations programmes, such as human rights and exclusion (Lisbon, 1995); partnerships in civic society (Christchurch, 1995); social change, ethnicity and migration (Dublin, 1997); and social integration (Bangkok, 1997). At these conferences, we gathered a total of more than 3,500 participants.

In 1995, we also endorsed an international social work conference on the theme "HIV/AIDS: living conditions, human rights and ethics" at Copenhagen.

Distribution of policy statements

IFSW has in the period 1994 to 1997 continued distributing its international policy papers on such topics as child welfare, elderly people, health, HIV-AIDS, human rights, migration, peace and disarmament, protection of personal information, refugees, rural communities, self-help, youth and the advancement of women. The policy papers have been developed partly on the basis of United Nations documents, and promote global social development.

Geographical breakdown of membership[a]

Country or area of member association	*Number of members*
Albania	60
Argentina	14 000
Australia	5 390
Austria	1 565
Bahrain	30
Belarus	50
Belgium	800
Benin	307
Bolivia	150
Brazil	57 000
Bulgaria	290
Canada	13 000
Chile	1 349
China	300
Colombia	1 200
Cyprus	100
Czech Republic	541
Denmark	34 858
Egypt	33 000
Finland	10 455
France	1 300
Germany	5 000
Ghana	350
Greece	1 500
Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of China	831
Hungary	220
Iceland	180
Ireland	520
Israel	5 000
Italy	2 500
Japan	6 053
Kuwait	290
Latvia	25
Luxembourg	360
Malaysia	65
Malta	35
Mauritius	51
Netherlands	2 660
Netherlands Antilles	70
New Zealand	1 122
Nicaragua	300
Nigeria	1 500
Norway	15 459
Philippines	1 869
Poland	2 000
Portugal	1 200
Romania	612
Russian Federation	4 960
Singapore	145
Spain	15 631
Sri Lanka	410
Sweden	20 675
Switzerland	2 398
Thailand	300
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	2 000
Uganda	300
Ukraine	452
United Kingdom	7 569
United Republic of Tanzania	250
United States	154 091
Zimbabwe	179
Total	**434 877**

[a] Based on associations.

4. International Federation of Women Lawyers

(Special consultative status granted 1954)

The International Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA) was organized in 1944 in Mexico City with the objectives to promote the principles and aims of the United Nations in their legal and social aspects; to establish friendly international relations on a basis of equality and mutual respect of all peoples; to promote the study of comparative law; and to enhance and promote the welfare of women and children.

There are members and affiliates in 80 countries, and an international congress is held every second year in the country of the current President, in rotation among the five areas of the world. A publication of a compendium of articles on legal and humanistic issues is issued biennially, and a newsletter is also published two to four times a year.

The greatest area of growth has been in Africa (see last quadrennial report), where members of FIDA have done extraordinary work and continue to perform heroically in both obtaining rights for and protecting the rights of women and children and acting in the forefront of humanitarian legal endeavours. At a previous meeting of the Commission on the Status of Women, African Governments, in their reports, gave credit to and acknowledged the effective and beneficial work of FIDA in Africa. Following the express aims of our laws, our representatives have been most active in the areas of human rights, women and children, mental health and narcotics. Our members attended the International Conference on Population and Development, the World Summit on Social Development, the Fourth World Conference on Women and the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), as well as the preparatory processes for those conferences. Utilizing their legal skills, they prepared resolutions, participated in parallel workshops and panel discussions, conducted caucuses, made written and oral statements presented at each of the conferences and forums, and provided concepts which have been incorporated in United Nations documents. Our most intense involvement has been with the Division for the Advancement of Women. For four years prior to the Beijing Conference our members led and conducted the working group on partnership between women and men for equality, holding seminars, meetings and discussions, issuing publications, participating in the preparatory process, with the result that the language and concepts formulated by them were incorporated in the Beijing Declaration.

Our members have originated and organized day-long consultations prior to the meetings of the Commission on the Status of Women, enabling directors and officials of United Nations bodies, such as UNICEF, the Division for the Advancement of Women, UNIFEM and INSTRAW, to address and inform more than 1,000 representatives from all over the world about the issues to be undertaken and the aims and achievements of these United Nations bodies. This work is done in cooperation with UNICEF, where our members have been active in the area of the girl child, assisting in the preparation of resolutions, in workshops, in caucuses and expert panels. For example, our members have worked with the Centre for Human Rights, issuing reports and interventions on the problem of abducted children, and also participated in the expert group meeting on the adolescent girl.

For example, our members organized a caucus on the target issue "Sharing of responsibility" at the Commission on the Status of Women in 1996, issuing a proposed resolution, which was accepted by the expert panel in this area, and in almost its entirety was submitted by the panel in its recommended agreed conclusions for adoption by the Economic and Social Council. Our members have worked with the World Health Organization, mostly in the area of mental health, preparing statements and holding conferences in order to raise this issue for consideration in all United Nations areas. We have organized and participated in World Mental Health Day and in forums, round tables and discussion groups, and have prepared resolutions and interventions for consideration to the Commissions on the Status of Women, Human Rights, and Narcotic Drugs, and to CEDAW. We have participated in United Nations consultations in the area of human rights, with emphasis on the issue of poverty. We have participated in the work of the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations on United Nations reform, taken part in round-table discussions with United Nations officials and governmental delegates, and have prepared written and oral statements.

Our members have long been active in the area of dealing with the problem of narcotic drugs. We assisted in the preparation of and participated in United Nations conferences dealing with youth and sports and on demand reduction, and have organized and participated in discussions of the issues of mental health and narcotics.

Our members have been in the forefront of health issues for women, as in Kenya, where their notable efforts have been to eradicate female genital mutilation, as well as making progress in the areas of child marriage, mortality from too early childbearing, obtaining more sanitary conditions, and the right of women to custody and to property.

Our members have assisted in organizing the yearly international meetings of the Department of Public Information for the years 1995, 1996, 1997. They have obtained speakers and organized workshops. They have also participated in orientation sessions and briefings.

The International Federation of Women Lawyers has had regional meetings in Europe, South America, Africa and Asia on issues affecting human rights and the legal standing of women and children. Members make reports on conditions and legal issues in their countries, and confer about enacting laws and promoting practices to enable people to obtain decent, healthy and fulfilled lives.

We proudly number among our members some of the great women leaders of the world, some of whom served as Presidents of our organization: Angie Brooks of Liberia, the second woman to hold the office of President of the United Nations General Assembly; Mehranguiz Manoutchehrian of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the winner in 1968 of one of

the six human rights awards presented by the United Nations; Helvi Sipila of Finland, the first woman to hold the position of Assistant Secretary-General at the United Nations; and Dame Eugenia Charles, former Prime Minister of Dominica. The list includes high court judges, government ministers and most important, committed human beings.

5. International Institute for Non-Aligned Studies

(General consultative status granted 1993)

1993

A four-member delegation of IINS participated in an NGO meeting and the World Conference on Human Rights held at Vienna in August 1993. IINS participated in various discussion meetings, seminars on multifarious subjects concerning human rights in the NGO meeting. IINS also displayed its publications and programmes in the exhibition organized by the NGOs at Vienna. At the Conference, IINS submitted a written statement on terrorism and human rights which was very well received by Member States and the large number of NGOs participating in the conference. IINS also presented statements on the subject.

1994

An IINS five-member delegation participated in the fiftieth session of the Commission on Human Rights at Geneva in February 1994. The delegation was led by the Director General of IINS. He presented statements on prevention of discrimination and protection of minorities, and on the Non-Aligned Movement, human rights and religious intolerance, on behalf of IINS.

An IINS delegation led by the Director General of the Institute participated in the Eleventh Ministerial Conference of Non-Aligned Countries (Cairo, 31 May to 3 June 1994) as a guest member of the Non-Aligned Movement. Thereafter, the Institute published a document of this Conference, edited and compiled by Govind Narain Srivastava, entitled *New Role of the Non-Aligned Movement*.

IINS sent a high-level delegation lead by the Director General of the Institute to participate in the forty-sixth session of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities from 1 to 26 August 1994 at Geneva, where delegates presented statements on relevant issues.

1995

An IINS delegation led by its Director General participated actively in the fifty-first session of the Commission on Human Rights in March–April 1995. During this session, IINS delegates submitted a number of statements on different agenda items, particularly on economic, social and cultural rights, terrorism, rights of minorities, children's rights and problems of immigrants and discrimination. The Institute also organized two NGO meetings during this session.

A two-member delegation headed by the Director General of the Institute participated at the Non-Aligned Movement ministerial meeting of the Coordinating Bureau at Bandung, Indonesia, from 25 to 27 April 1995 as a guest member of the Non-Aligned Movement.

An IINS high-level delegation led by the Director General participated at the forty-seventh session of the Subcommission from 31 July to 25 August 1995 at Geneva. The delegation presented 10 statements on various agenda items of the meeting, and made bilateral contacts with international NGOs from various countries on human rights issues and other international, political and social questions. A meeting was held with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, José Ayala, and his Special Assistants on 21 August 1995 in his office at Geneva.

IINS representative Narinder Berry participated in the AAPSO Asian regional conference held at Hanoi on 26 September 1995. An IINS delegate presented a paper on establishing a just international economic order and the need for South-South cooperation.

A two-member delegation comprising the President and Director General of IINS participated in the Eleventh Conference of the Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries (Cartagena, Colombia, 14–20 October 1995) as guest member of the Non-Aligned Movement. Two IINS publications were released during the summit.

1996

IINS participants made statements on different priority issues before the fifty-second session of the Commission on Human Rights, exposing in particular human rights violations in different parts of the world. IINS delegates had the privilege of submitting various documents to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. IINS also organized film shows and a seminar on the theme, "Human rights: focus on South Asia". Besides these activities, two IINS radio recordings were also broadcast by Geneva Radio.

An IINS high-level delegation participated at the forty-eighth session of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities from 5 August to 30 August 1996. The delegation presented 33 statements on various agenda items and established bilateral contacts with other international NGOs. IINS also organized a seminar on human rights and the twenty-first century on 20 August 1996 at the United Nations Office at Geneva. The conference was inaugurated by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and was addressed by experts of the Subcommission and the IINS Director General.

IINS representative P. C. Patanjali participated in the sixth plenary session of ISPAC held on 5–8 October 1996 at Mont Blanc, Italy, on migration and crime, global and regional problems and responses.

A delegation participated in the substantive session of the Council held in June–July 1996. The participation by IINS was helpful in networking of NGOs having consultative status with the Council. It also provided valuable knowledge and information about various activities of the Council and various United Nations agencies and the role of NGOs in its activities and programmes.

1997

The IINS Secretary participated in an international conference on the theme "Clash of civilization or dialogue of cultures", and presented a paper on a related theme. The conference was organized by the Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organization at Cairo, from 10–12 March 1997, to celebrate the fortieth anniversary of solidarity with and in defence of the people of Africa, Asia and the South.

A delegation of IINS participated in the fifty-third session of the Commission on Human Rights at Geneva from 10 March to 18 April 1997. A number of oral and written statements on various human rights issues, such as child labour, women's rights, right to development, terrorism, fundamentalism, and rights of minorities, were submitted. IINS also organized a seminar on democracy and human rights, as well as film shows on this occasion. Emerging issues and trends in this session, including economic, social and cultural rights, violence against women, racism and racial discrimination, rights of the child, and conflicts of civilization, were taken up by the Institute for special dissemination.

A high-level delegation of IINS participated in the twelfth ministerial meeting of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries on 7–8 April 1997 at New Delhi as a guest of the Non-Aligned Movement. The Director General of IINS was appointed Special Adviser to the Non-Aligned Movement Committee on Recommendations. A volume, containing documents of the 35 years of the Non-Aligned Movement, was published by IINS and circulated at the twelfth ministerial meeting.

A delegation of IINS participated in the forty-ninth session of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities at Geneva from 4 to 29 August 1997. IINS organized a seminar on peace, security and human rights, film shows and meetings of NGOs in consultative status with the Council on this occasion. A number of oral and written statements were submitted to the Subcommission on various issues, such as the realization of economic, social and cultural rights, right to development, religious intolerance, protection of minorities, indigenous persons, and terrorism and human rights.

A delegation o IINS participated at the fiftieth annual non-governmental conference organized by the Department of Public Information, in cooperation with the Executive Committee of Non-Governmental Organizations associated with the Department at United Nations Headquarters in New York on 10–12 September 1997.

An IINS representative attended and made a presentation in the seventh plenary session of the International Scientific and Professional Advisory Council of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme held in September 1997 at Mont Blanc, Italy.

1998

An IINS delegation participated in an international seminar on human rights, democracy and economic development on 16–17 January 1998 at Unitarian-Universalist Church, San Francisco. The seminar was organized on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the birthday of Martin Luther King. The Director General of the Institute presented a paper entitled "Management of terrorism for democracy and development.

A high-level delegation of IINS participated in the fifty-fourth session of the Commission on Human Rights at Geneva from 16 March to 24 April 1998. A number of oral and written statements on various human rights issues, such as child labour, women's rights, right to development, terrorism, fundamentalism, and rights of minorities, were submitted. IINS also organized seminars and film shows. Emerging issues and trends included economic, social and cultural rights, violence against women, racism and racial

discrimination, rights of the child and conflicts of civilization.

6. International Institute of Administrative Sciences

(Special consultative status granted 1947)

Introduction

The International Institute of Administrative Sciences (IIAS) is an international association with scientific purpose. It was established in 1930 with its seat in Brussels. The purpose of IIAS, together with its two specialized associations, the International Association of Schools and Institute of Administration and the European Group of Public Administration, is to promote the development of the administrative sciences and the better operation of public administrative agencies at all levels. Represented in some 100 countries in all regions of the world, IIAS brings together through numerous activities (such as conferences and congresses, seminars and working groups) researchers, specialists in administrative sciences, notably in the fields of administrative law, public management and administrative practices, and also decision makers and practitioners. The official languages of IIAS are English and French.

New members

Since 1994, membership of IIAS has grown in all regions of the world.

As well as 20 new corporate members, national sections have been established in Argentina, Bolivia, Bulgaria, India, Jamaica, Kazakhstan, Mauritius, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, San Marino, Sri Lanka, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania and Zimbabwe, IIAS also gained five member States, namely, Cameroon, Indonesia, Philippines, South Africa and Switzerland, and four international organizations: the Agency for Cultural and Technical Cooperation, the Inter-American Development Bank, the European Patent Office and the Central American Institute for Public Administration.

Relations and cooperation with the United Nations

IIAS has positioned its programmes of activities in synergy with those of the United Nations, and cooperates both indirectly and directly — through increasingly close cooperation with the Division for Public Economics and Public Administration (Department of Economic and Social Affairs). IIAS has thus become a small but effective and reliable partner of the Division.

General activities

The major conferences of the United Nations on global issues such as the environment, social development, population, human rights and women are only meaningful if the resulting strategies and action plans are implemented by Member States. IIAS contributes in a diversified and sustained manner to strengthening institutional and government capacities that are vital to the implementation of the follow-up to such conferences, and according particular attention to States and Governments of developing countries and countries in transition. The following are some examples:

(a) Yearly international conferences (400 to 600 participants from all regions of the world) on:

(i) "The State, the market and development: regulation or deregulation" (Helsinki, 1994);

(ii) "Administration and society: administrative response to globalization and socio-cultural change" (Dubai, United Arab Emirates, 1995);

(iii) "New challenges for public administration in the twenty-first century: efficient civil service and decentralized public administration" (Beijing, 1996);

(iv) "The citizen and public administration" (Paris, 1998);

(b) Recent working groups on: "The ombudsman"; "Human rights and public administration"; "Women and decision-making in the public sector"; "Administrative reform and modernization"; "Administration and the international civil service";

(c) Seminars on:

(i) "Institutional capacity in terms of change and support of public policies" (Dakar, 1992; Kingston, 1994);

(ii) "The role of non-governmental organizations in national development strategy" (Kuala Lumpur, 1992; Cairo, 1993; Bloomington, Indiana, 1995);

(iii) "Under what conditions does decentralization promote local democracy?" (Nida, Lithuania, February–March 1995; Krakow, Poland, 11–15 September 1995; Riga, Latvia, 20–24 September 1995; Warsaw, 7–10 December 1995 and 1–3 February 1996);

(iv) "Impact of economic reforms from 1980 to 1990 on the situation of women in Africa" (Accra, 22–25 July 1996);

(v) "Management of public sector reforms" (Yaoundé, Cameroon, 21–23 October 1996; Gaborone, Botswana, 28–30 October 1996);

(vi) "Productivity and efficiency in the public sector: decentralization towards the improvement of public services" (Bandung, Indonesia, April 1997);

(vii) "Towards a new public administration: learning from international experience" (Mysore, India, 2–4 June 1997);

(viii) "Public sector management in the countries of the European Union and Latin America" (Santiago de Compostelo, Spain, 22–23 September 1997);

(ix) "Internal judicial reform of international organizations" (Brussels, 1–3 October 1997);

(x) "Administrative and political corruption" (Ankara, 15–17 October 1997).

Publications

These activities have all resulted in publications which have been widely disseminated. The following are some examples:

National administration

La place de la femme dans la vie publique et dans la prise de décision (l'Harmattan, France, 1994)

Droits de l'homme et administrations publiques (Ets. Bruylant, Belgium, 1997)

Transformations in Social Security Systems, IOS Press, Netherlands, 1997)

Accountability in Public Service: Who Answers What? When? and How? (IIAS, 1995)

Les administrations qui changent: innovations techniques ou nouvelles logiques? (PUF, 1996)

Administration et société: la résponse administrative à la mondialisation et aux changements socio-culturels (Ets Bruylant, Belgium, 1995)

Can Government Learn? (Transaction Publishers, United States of America, 1994)

International administration

The Pensions of International Civil Servants (Ets. Bruylant, Belgium, 1994)

La couverture médicale dans la fonction publique internationale (Ets. Bruylant, Belgium, 1998)

Joint publications IISA — (formerly DDSMS)

Administrative Reforms: Country Profiles (United Nations, 1997)

Public Administration and Development: Improving Accountability, Responsiveness and Legal Framework (published jointly by IIAS and the United Nations, 1997)

Direct, specific activities

IIAS participates in most United Nations conferences concerning public administration and development. With its 60 years of experience, IIAS makes a significant contribution to the preparation and/or organization of such conferences.

Meetings of groups of experts in public administration and finance

Active participation either of the President (1997) or the Director-General (1995, 1996, 1998) and various experts recommended by IIAS belonging to IIAS networks.

Resumed fiftieth session of the General Assembly on public administration and development

IIAS played an active role in preparing for the session as a member of the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole, where it was represented by its Director-General. IIAS was able to make its network of experts and its scientific methods available to the United Nations. IIAS was, moreover, the main organizer of a professional colloquium preceding the resumed session of the General Assembly whose theme was "Contribution to a re-evaluation of public administration in development: public or private responsibility? (doctrine and methodologies) (New York, 1996).

Conference in Thessaloniki, Greece (1997) on "Civil service in transition: strengthening its role, professional level and moral values".

Participation of the Director-General as moderator of the UNDP panel: "Administration and civil society".

Panels were also organized jointly during major IIAS international conferences on:

(a) "The role of international cooperation in the field of institutional development and administrative reforms" (Dubai, 1–5 July 1995);

(b) "The reconstruction of African policy management and public administration for the twenty-first century: challenges and opportunities" (Beijing, 8–11 October 1996);

(c) "National experiences and administrative reforms" and "The changing world of government: mechanisms facilitating 'public' participation in administration" (Quebec City, 14–17 July 1998);

(d) "The United Nations and public administration: a half century of experience. A stocktaking and perspectives. Emerging issues." (Paris, 7–11 September 1998).

7. International Law Association

(Special consultative status granted 1947)

Introduction

The International Law Association, originally named the Association for the Reform and Codification of the Law of Nations, was founded at Brussels in 1873. Its aims, under its constitution, are the study, elucidation and advancement of international law, public and private; the study of comparative law; the making of proposals for the solution of conflicts of law and for the unification of law; and the furthering of international understanding and goodwill.

The activities of the Association are organized by the Executive Council, assisted by its headquarters secretariat in London. Membership of the Association, at present about 4,200, is spread among branches throughout the world. Since the last report to the Council, additional branches have been established in Sri Lanka, Slovenia, Portugal, various Pacific islands, Malta, Guatemala, New Zealand and Estonia, amounting at the end of 1997 to a total of 50 branches.

Objectives

The Association's objectives are pursued primarily through the work of its international committees, which are activities in various fields of international law, public and private, and which prepare reports on the topics under consideration; and the conferences held every two years in different parts of the world, at which the membership has an opportunity to debate the reports, and where appropriate to adopt resolutions, of which many are of interest and accordingly submitted to United Nations bodies and specialized agencies as well as to other organizations. Some 67 such conferences have so far taken place, two during the period covered by this report (Buenos Aires, 1994; and Helsinki, 1996).

Activities

Following the 1994 and 1996 conferences, the Association submitted the following:

(a) First report of the Committee on Extradition and Human Rights, together with recommendations on human rights considerations relevant to extradition and related procedures (addressed to the Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, and other bodies concerned with suppression of international crime);

(b) Report of the Committee on Space Law, together with the Buenos Aires International Instrument on the Protection of the Environment from Damages caused by Space Debris (addressed to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and other governmental and non-governmental institutions);

(c) Final report and resolution of the Committee on Cultural Heritage Law, together with the Buenos Aires draft convention on the protection of the underwater cultural heritage (addressed to UNESCO, for consideration by the Executive Board);

(d) Final report of the Committee on State Immunity, together with revised draft articles for a convention on state immunity (addressed to relevant international organizations and other bodies);

(e) Final report and resolution of the Committee on the Enforcement of International Human Rights (addressed to national Governments, appropriate international organizations, non-governmental organizations and other relevant bodies);

(f) Report of the Committee on International Civil and Commercial Litigation, together with the Principles on Provisional and Protective Measures (addressed to the Commission on International Trade Law and The Hague Conference on Private International Law);

(g) Second report of the Committee on Legal Aspects of Sustainable Development (addressed to the Commission on Sustainable Development, UNCTAD, UNEP, the World Trade Organization, the World Bank and other relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations);

(h) First report of the Committee on International Human Rights Law and Practice entitled "The United Nations human rights treaties: facing the implementation crisis" (addressed to the Secretary-General for the attention of the next meeting of chairpersons of the United Nations treaty bodies, as well as individual members of the treaty bodies, and to the Commissions on Human Rights and the Status of Women and the General Assembly);

(i) Report and resolution of the Committee on Internally Displaced Persons, together with the draft preamble and principle (addressed for information and comment to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on internally displaced persons, as well as UNHCR, UNRWA, the Commission on Human Rights, the International Red Cross and other relevant regional and non-governmental organizations).

Other relevant activities

In the reporting years and with regard to the United Nations Decade of International Law, the Association continued to pursue its project on the identification of a basic library: a set of international law books to be presented to newly independent or developing States likely to lack such basic materials, thereby assisting and promoting the development of international law. Distribution of the selected publications is foreseen to take place in 1998.

In addition to the ILA biennial conferences held in 1994 and 1996, the Association held the following regional conferences: (a) in May 1995, the first Asian-Pacific regional conference at Taipei, where papers were presented and discussed on a variety of topics, including international law of the sea, human rights and the problems of regional variation, intellectual property trends and dispute settlements, and legal issues for the protection of the environment in the region; (b) in September 1997, the first regional conference held in the Russian Federation was held at Moscow. Among the subjects discussed were international law issues relating to the Commonwealth of Independent States, international law and international cooperation against terrorism, the Russian Federation and 50 years of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Throughout the period covered by the present report, the usual contact was maintained with the International Social Science Council, and members of the Association were, as in previous years, engaged in various activities in cooperation with and support of the United Nations, including participation at meetings and events sponsored by the United Nations and its agencies and subsidiary bodies. The Association's Director of Studies presented a paper at a United Nations colloquium on the progressive development and codification of international law, commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of the International Law Commission, held in New York on 28 and 29 October 1997. The paper is due to be published in the proceedings of the colloquium.

Publications

The main publication of the Association is the biennial conference report, which contains the reports of the international committees and the record of the discussions at the conference working sessions, together with adopted resolutions. The report is distributed free to financial members of the Association but also sold to many libraries and booksellers. Complimentary copies are issued to the United Nations, New York, and many of its agencies abroad, as well as to intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

The Association also publishes a biannual newsletter (June and December), which is distributed free to all members and published on a Web site.

At the end of 1997, the Association announced the establishment of its own Web site, at:

http://www.ila-hq.org

The ILA headquarters secretariat can now also be reached by e-mail at:

secretariat@ila-hq.org

8. International League for Human Rights

(Special consultative status granted 1950)

Introductory statement

The International League for Human Rights was founded in 1942, and has worked for over 50 years to bring human rights issues to the attention of the world community through the United Nations. With the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as its platform, the League assists its partners in the United States and abroad in bringing human rights issues before the United Nations and other multinational bodies. Since the earliest years of the United Nations, the League has been in consultative status with the Council, and is also accredited at the International Labour Organization, the Council of Europe and the African Commission on Human Rights.

The League is a non-governmental, non-profit membership organization which accepts no funds from any government or government body. It is financed by its members and contributors.

The League has a network of some 30 affiliates around the world with whom it works to promote human rights through the United Nations. The League also has a number of partners with whom it works on specific projects. The League publishes regular bulletins about its activities and reports on specific human rights situations.

Each year while the General Assembly is in session (1994–1997), the League has held a regular, bi-weekly briefing series on relevant topics for the Third Committee for delegates, United Nations staff and NGOs.

Among the League's staff are two persons who represent the League at all briefings and meetings relevant to human rights at United Nations Headquarters in New York. The League also sends representatives to United Nations meetings at Geneva and elsewhere.

Participation in the work of the Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or conferences

The League has a long-standing interest in the promotion of the work and advancement of human rights through the United Nations. To further these efforts in 1994–1997, the League participated each year in the ongoing work of the Commission on Human Rights. Each year, together with some of its affiliates, the League has attended Third Committee debates on human rights issues and the Commission on the Status of Women (1994–1997), continuing on its work in the period 1991–1993 and preceding. The League has also taken part in the World Conference on Human Rights (Vienna, 1993) and the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing, 1995).

League representatives have attended the sessions of the Committee on the Rights of the Child (1996–1997) and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (1994–1997), and have made oral and written presentations to the members of these bodies (1994–1997).

The League has also made oral and written submissions to the Commission on Human Rights and the Subcommission on Human Rights (1994–1997) on human rights situations and religious intolerance. The League submits relevant country reports to the members of the Human Rights Committee (1995, 1997).

The League has continued to make regular written presentations to the Special Committee on the Situation with Regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (1994, 1995, 1997).

The League frequently organizes conferences on topics of relevance to the United Nations agenda before and during major human rights meetings, to bring experts in the field together with United Nations delegates and staff, such as conferences on:

(a) Freedom of religion and belief (New York, 1993);

(b) Combating violence against women (New York, 1993);

(c) Women's rights in preparation for Beijing (New York, 1994);

(d) Human rights and the media (Geneva, 1995);

(e) Accountability for women's human rights violations (1995);

(f) Children's rights (New York, 1996);

(g) Trafficking of women (Moscow, 1997).

The League regularly submits information obtained through its missions and projects, and its affiliate and partners network to the Centre for Human Rights, including the specialized machinery (the working groups on torture, disappearances and arbitrary detention, and the special rapporteurs for various thematic concerns and countries). In particular, the League has also submitted documentation to the Special Rapporteurs on contemporary forms of racial discrimination (1995–1997), and the Special Rapporteur on religious intolerance (1995–1997), assisting the latter in meeting with non-governmental religious organizations as well (1996–1997).

Cooperation with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies

The League has long supported efforts by UNICEF and the Secretary-General to increase the capacity of the United Nations to advocate on behalf of children, particularly those in armed conflict. Through its 1996 conference and follow-up meetings with United Nations staff, the League supported the appointment in 1997 of the Special Assistant to the Secretary-General for Children in Armed Conflict. The League supported the optional protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict, and made a written submission with its proposals to the Commission on Human Rights in 1997.

The League's representatives have participated in the consultations at headquarters regarding NGO status, and an

officer of the League has served as its representative on the CONGO Human Rights Committee.

League representatives attended meetings of the Preparatory Committees drafting the statute for the International Criminal Court. A League representative has regularly attended meetings of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (1994–1997), and had a representative at the sixth plenary session of the International Scientific and Professional Advisory Council (1996) on crime.

Implementation of United Nations resolutions

For decades, the League has focused on "defending the defenders", assisting those who advocate for the rights of others, and has met with United Nations officials and NGO leaders to promote adoption of the Declaration on the Right of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect International Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, which was adopted at the fifty-fourth session of the Commission on Human Rights, in 1998.

9. International Movement for Fraternal Union among Races and Peoples (UFER)

(Special consultative status granted 1953)

Aims and purposes of UFER

The International Movement for Fraternal Union among Races and Peoples (UFER) was established in 1952 with the following objectives:

(a) Affirm the unity of human nature;

(b) Affirm the fundamental equality of all races, of all peoples and of all cultures, and work towards the advancement of a genuine international community;

(c) Believe in the efficacy of spiritual values to promote comprehension and collaboration among peoples; however, the Movement is non-confessional;

(d) Reject every method inspired by hatred, its doctrine being a doctrine of peace in justice and love;

(e) Promote the aims and objectives of the United Nations.

Its outreach and affiliation has expanded since its creation with individuals and groups as members from Asia, Africa, America and Europe. During the reporting period, its membership has increased to 35 countries. Its funding resources, being exclusively annual membership fees, UFER's revenue increases together with its new affiliates.

The General Assembly, which was held in August 1997, elected the new members of the Executive Board for a term of four years. A general plan of action was adopted, with the main focus on the elimination of racism and the promotion of human rights and peace. UFER activities are related to those of the United Nations in the area of the promotion of equality among races and of peace.

Participation in world conferences

Since UFER had actively participated in the World Conference on Human Rights at Vienna in 1993, it also took part in world conferences organized by the United Nations in the period 1994–1997.

At the *International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) held at Cairo in 1994*, UFER delegates took part in the various consultations, presentations and workshops at the main conference and at parallel NGO activities.

The World Summit for Social Development, held at Copenhagen from 6 to 12 March 1995, was a forum at which UFER representatives were present to take part in the conference and the activities of the non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

In the preparation processes of the *Fourth World Conference on Women*, UFER was actively taking part in meetings held in New York, Amman, Dakar and Vienna. During the Beijing Conference and NGO Forum, UFER was represented by its delegates from Asia, Africa, America and Europe. Several statements and communications related to racism were made at the NGO forum. Representative exchanged experiences, networked and lobbied. UFER was also present at the main Conference, using its consultative status.

Human rights activities

UFER attended regularly the sessions of the *Commission on Human Rights* and that of its subsidiary bodies the Subcommission on Human Rights and Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities. Between 1994 and 1997, statements on human rights were made in relation to the situation in the following countries: Haiti, Equatorial Guinea, the Republic of the Congo, Algeria, Rwanda, Ethiopia and the Sudan. The question of kidnapping and disappearance of children in Argentina was raised at the sessions of both bodies during

the reporting period. Interventions were also made on the right to development and the elimination of poverty as basic human rights. The effect of the devaluation of the CFA franc on poverty and the economic situation in West Africa was raised by UFER. The transition of South Africa to democracy was of special interest to UFER, and its position was expressed to the Commission.

UFER has been present at the session of the *Commission on the Status of Women* in New York, upholding the principles of the indivisibility of human rights principles. UFER takes an active part in the promotion of women's human rights through statements, lobbying and networking.

UFER is involved in work related to the *Convention on the Rights of the Child*. It issues statements on the implementation of the Convention, and participates in workshops on children and on situations of conflict, child labour and the girl child.

Cooperation with specialized agencies

UFER used its special relationship with *UNESCO* to take part in a conference on peace, development and tolerance held from 5 to 8 October 1994. It also followed regular sessions of UNESCO and communicated its observations. UFER has published news relative to the WHO/NGO consultation held in February 1998 at Dakar.

Joint activities with other NGOs

UFER is a member of the NGO Committee on Human Rights. It takes part in the regular meeting focusing on the issue of racial discrimination within the Committee of the Status of Women, a subsidiary body of the NGO Committee on Human Rights. UFER coordinates a working group on traditional practices affecting women and children. It has worked actively to raise awareness of the problem of female genital mutilation as a form of violence against women. The working group is composed of 26 NGOs in consultative status with the Council. UFER, together with concerned NGOs, continues to lobby in favour of girls who suffer from the ritual of mutilation. Progress reports are compiled and regularly presented in the NGO Committee on the Status of Women. UFER is also a member of the NGO Committee on Development.

Publications

UFER publishes a newsletter 4 times a year in English and French. Topics included:

(a) Sessions of the Commission on Human Rights and its subcommission;

(b) News from UNESCO;

(c) Situation in Rwanda;

(d) UNICEF news;

(e) Rights of women;

(f) Peace;

(g) ICPD;

(h) Question of Palestine;

(i) Democracy and peace;

(j) Culture and development;

(k) The girl child;

(l) Migration;

(m) Habitat II;

(n) Fighting harmful traditional practices.

The publication is part of UFER's contribution to publicizing the work of the United Nations system to promote human rights. Since its members are widely distributed, such information is vital, especially for those who haven't had the opportunity to follow international conferences and decisions made. The newsletter is also distributed to the United Nations Secretariat and specialized agencies.

Consultation with the United Nations Secretariat

Regular consultations are held with the United Nations NGO Liaison Office at Geneva and New York and with other officials in substantive departments, such as the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Division for the Advancement of Women and UNICEF.

Training

UFER organized a training session on the importance of NGOs in the process of globalization, particularly in building alliance with grass-roots associations which are directly affected by current economic realities. Some 30 participants from 15 countries were invited to participate in the training session, which took place at Geneva. The head of the NGO Liaison Office was requested to make a presentation on the mechanisms, the operations and the activities of the United Nations. NGO/United Nations working relationships were also explained and discussed.

The International Movement for Fraternal Union among Races and Peoples (UFER) intends to continue its

efforts to promote peace, justice and understanding among peoples in collaboration with the United Nations and other NGOs.

10. International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (EAFORD)

(Special consultative status granted 1981)

Objectives and principles

The purpose of the organization is humanitarian, emanating from the principle of the equality in dignity and rights of all human beings and people. The specific principles and objectives of the organization are set forth in the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. The organization adopts all legitimate means of contributing to the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination everywhere, and attempts to organize efforts for that purpose to ensure a greater measure of effectiveness, including the following:

(a) Collection of information and preparation of studies and references on racism in general and the dissemination thereof;

(b) Development of awareness of the racist problem and its danger to the human community, human dignity and world peace through publications, conferences, seminars and other means;

(c) Confirmation of the moral and human values of equality and justice without discrimination;

(d) Exposure of the interrelationship between racism, colonialism and imperialism;

(e) Cooperation and support with efforts of NGOs engaged in combating racism and racial discrimination;

(f) Performance of such other activities as may contribute to greater understanding among people on the basis of equal worth and dignity of all human beings. For example, EAFORD occasionally grants fellowship awards to graduate students, and presents an international award for the promotion of human understanding.

Activities

As it has done over the past two decades, EAFORD continues to engage in a number of activities and projects, often in cooperation with the United Nations or other NGOs concerned with human rights and the elimination of racial discrimination. All the activities of EAFORD are directed towards the realization of the objectives of the United Nations by fighting discrimination in all fields. These activities during the period under review included:

(a) Convening seminars and conferences under joint auspices with universities, NGOs and the United Nations on racism and racial discrimination in general, as well as on self-determination of Palestinians and rights and conditions of indigenous peoples, in Geneva, the Middle East, New York, Vienna, Washington, Latin America, Canada etc.;

(b) Participating through oral and written interventions in at least 200 conferences and seminars organized by NGOs and the United Nations and its agencies;

(c) EAFORD participated in the International Conference on Population and Development (Cairo, September 1994);

(d) EAFORD participated in the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) (Istanbul, June 1996);

(e) EAFORD participated in an international seminar on democracy, discrimination and terrorism at New Delhi in July 1996);

(f) EAFORD participated in all sessions of the Commission on Human Rights throughout 1994 to 1997;

(g) EAFORD participated in all sessions of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities during 1994 to 1997, especially under agenda items on self-determination, racism and racial discrimination, decolonization, and violations of human rights in any part of the world;

(h) EAFORD participated in the annual NGO symposium on the question of Palestine during 1994–1997;

(i) EAFORD serves on the Subcommittee on Racism, Racial Discrimination and Decolonization;

(j) EAFORD was and remains a member of the International Coordinating Committee of NGOs on the Question of Palestine;

(k) EAFORD was a member of the NGO Committee on Human Rights;

(l) EAFORD was and remains a member of the Conference of NGOs in Consultative Status with the Council;

(m) EAFORD published and publishes a biannual newsletter with "United Nations update" sections;

(n) EAFORD provides information to United Nations bodies, including committees and working groups dealing with specific questions on racism and racial discrimination, and submits observations and reports to many officials of the United Nations Secretariat, as well as to Special Rapporteurs and the United Nations High Commissioner on Human Rights.

(o) EAFORD organized a panel on barriers to housing rights at a United Nations/NGO co-sponsored conference on sustainable housing in industrialized States (New York, 1 and 2 October 1990);

(p) EAFORD assisted in organizing a fact-finding mission to Palestine to investigate matters in connection with the Habitat International Coalition Campaign against Forced Eviction in 1990–1991;

(q) EAFORD was invited to take part in the human rights panel of a native housing rights conference (Sudbury, Ontario, 13–16 August 1990);

(r) EAFORD participated in conducting a briefing and a video presentation entitled "Jerusalem: an occupation set in stone?" and offered interviews on Jerusalem and the settlements to six news agencies, papers, radios and TVs during Habitat II;

(s) The Secretary-General of EAFORD, Anis Al-Qasem, at the request of the Palestine Liberation Organization after the signature of The Declaration of Principles, has prepared a draft basic law for the emerging Palestinian entity, which emphasized human rights and the rule of law on the basis of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the two International Covenants;

(t) Executive Council Member T. Ataov, who was previously given a medal of honour by President Yasser Arafat, in an international conference organized by the University of Bophuthatswana was presented again with a certificate in recognition of his publications, lectures and other activities in support of the rights of the indigenous African peoples. At Ankara University in Turkey, he had started by introducing courses on Africa and writing a textbook entitled *African National Liberation Movements* (about 750 pages). It is a massive compendium that took the liberation issue from 1918 up to the present, analysing it country by country and also continent-wise. But this was only part of Dr. Ataov's much wider activity, including finishing recently a UNESCO study on discrimination as a source of conflict. He also assisted in organizing a visit to Bosnia and Herzegovina, and was an international observer at the 1997 national and provincial Pakistani elections, where he reported on a serious case of discrimination against the 22 million-strong Mohajir (refugees) population;

(u) EAFORD's Executive Council Member Charles Roach convened a regional meeting of the Pan African Movement at Toronto; participants from Angola, Nigeria, Guyana, the Bahamas and the United States came especially for the meeting in June 1993;

(v) Elmer Berger, EAFORD's Executive Council Member, finished a book entitled *Peace for Palestine*. The book is a comprehensive review and a true mirror that reflects 50 years of struggle in defense of the rights of Palestinians;

(w) EAFORD received Award of Peace Messenger from the Secretary-General of the United Nations;

(x) EAFORD continued efforts of previous years to focus comparatively on Palestine, South Africa, former Yugoslavia, indigenous peoples and minorities.

Publications

EAFORD publications covered the following topics:

(a) The demolition of Palestinian homes and other structures by Israeli Authorities;

(b) Arms and infiltration: Israel in Latin America;

(c) Palestinian rights and Israeli institutionalized racism;

(d) Chronicle of institutionalized racism: Israel in Palestine;

(e) The debate on Zionism and racism;

(f) The facts on Zionism and racism;

(g) Applying anti-apartheid principles to the Middle East;

(h) International law and indigenous peoples organizations regarding Housing and habitat;

(i) State planning, development programme and indigenous groups;

(j) Religious orientation and racism;

(k) Jerusalem and the settlements;

(l) The question of Jerusalem in the post-cold war era.

The publications of EAFORD, as well as its newsletter, *Without Prejudice* (the EAFORD international journal on racial discrimination), special reports and studies, information sheets and bulletins, are sent regularly to United Nations offices and to 2,000 other NGOs and international

and national offices and agencies. Information is continually provided regarding United Nations activities and the role which EAFORD plays in the work of the Organization, as well as the contact EAFORD maintains throughout the year with the United Nations.

11. International Organization of Employers

(General consultative status granted 1947)

Profile

Founded in 1920, the International Organization of Employers is the only organization representing the interests of employers at the international level in the social and labour fields. Its membership consists of 126 national employers' organizations from all over the world. Its mission is:

(a) Defending employer interests at the international level, particularly within the ILO. IOE acts as the voice of employers, and strives to ensure that international social policy does not undermine the viability of enterprises. At the same time, it acts as the secretariat to the employers' group at the International Labour Conference, the ILO governing body and all other ILO-related meetings;

(b) Promoting free enterprise and its development. Its objective is to influence the policies and technical cooperation programme of the ILO so that at the national level, enterprises can be created and operate without being constrained by the rigidities of detailed legislation and regulations. A major priority for IOE is to generate an enterprise-friendly philosophy in the ILO;

(c) Helping to establish and strengthen employers' organizations at the national level. IOE is actively engaged in the creation and strengthening of representative organizations of employers, particularly in the developing countries and those in transition to the market economy;

(d) Facilitating the transfer of information and experience to employer's organizations. It acts as a permanent liaison body for the exchange of views and experience among employers throughout the world, and is the recognized channel for the communication and promotion of the employer point of view in all international bodies.

Participation in activities of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies

IOE was represented at the regular sessions of the Council, both in New York and Geneva, during the period under review.

Cooperation with United Nations agencies

International Labour Organization

By virtue of its consultative status with the ILO, IOE has continued to be closely involved in all activities of this specialized United Nations agency, attending the International Labour Conference, governing body and all other tripartite meetings in its capacity as a coordinating body and the secretariat of the employers group.

During the period under review, IOE paid particular attention, *inter alia*, to initiatives to reform ILO structures and adopt a new ILO standards policy, as well as to ILO action in the field of discrimination, the elimination of child labour and technical assistance to employers' organizations. IOE was also most active at the first enterprise forum, held in 1996. Through its participation in the ILO governing body, IOE is permanently following all United Nations activities related to ILO competencies.

United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

The IOE permanent representative at Vienna attended all meetings of the UNIDO Industrial Development Board. Particular attention is being devoted to UNIDO training activities for industrial manpower and to its sectoral activities.

Dissemination of information

IOE publishes *The Free Employer*, which periodically covers United Nations activities of particular importance to its members.

Participation in United Nations conferences

In addition to the meetings mentioned above, representatives of IOE participated in the following conferences held under the aegis of or in connection with the United Nations:

(a) WTO ministerial conference (Singapore, 1996);

(b) Commission on Social Development (New York, February 1997);

(c) UNEP consultative meeting with industry and trade associations (Paris, June 1994–1997);

(d) First, second and third preparatory meetings of the World Summit for Social Development (New York, 1994 and 1995);

(e) World Summit for Social Development (Copenhagen, March 1995);

(f) Commission on international investment and transnational corporations (Geneva, April 1995);

(g) World Bank seminar on promoting a policy dialogue on labour issues (Washington, D.C., May 1996);

(h) United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) (Istanbul, June 1996);

(i) International Organization for Migration seminar on migration (Geneva, April 1997);

(j) Office of the United Nations High Commissioner/Centre for Human Rights seminar on immigration, racism and racial discrimination (Geneva, May 1997).

Membership

IOE membership currently comprises 126 federations in 122 countries (34 in Africa, 32 in the Americas, 24 in Asia and 36 in Europe).

12. International Road Transport Union

(Special consultative status granted 1949)

IRU-United Nations Cooperation: transport facilitation

IRU has been an active participant at annual meetings of the ECE Inland Transport Committee and Principal Working Party on Road Transport. The main questions addressed by the IRU through written and oral contributions include:

(a) Reducing non-tariff barriers in international road transport:

(i) Submission of proposals and presentation of an IRU video on the facilitation of border crossings in Central and Eastern Europe (1995–1998);

(ii) Submission of proposals on the mitigation of the visa problem for professional drivers employed in international transport (1995–1998);

(iii) Contribution to the facilitation of border crossing in the region of South-East European Initiative under the auspices of ECE (1997–1998).

(b) Tax harmonization: submission of a comparative analysis of and proposals for fiscal harmonization in the European road transport sector (1997–1998);

(c) United Nations agreements and conventions:

(i) Active promotion for the adoption and practical implementation of a United Nations multilateral legal instrument on road transport in Central and Eastern Europe, in particular in newly independent States (1995–1998);

(ii) Submission of draft amendments to the convention on the contract for the international carriage of passengers and luggage by road (1995);

(iii) Submission of a review and comments on a proposed revision of the convention on the contract for the international carriage of goods by road regarding the use of electronic data interchange (1996);

(iv) Contribution to the elaboration of a draft revision to the European agreement concerning the work of crews of vehicles engaged in international road transport (1997);

(v) Submission of a draft revision to the consolidated resolution on road transport (1998);

(d) Assistance to countries in transition:

(i) Aid in setting up road transport trade associations as negotiating partners with local Governments (1995–1996);

(ii) Organization of seminars and conferences on aspects of transition and East-West cooperation in transport (1995–1998);

(iii) Publication of two editions of the IRU handbook on the European harmonization of road transport legislation (a summary of the road transport law in the European Union and Central and East European countries) (1996 and 1998).

International road transport

IRU is in charge of the daily application of the guarantee chain of the United Nations international road transport convention. IRU is playing an active and major role in such work through reports on developments and proposals for improving and safeguarding the international road transport regime. It has also participated intensively in the implementation of the recommendation of the Administrative

Committee of the convention dated 20 October 1995 by developing a computer network with over 46 customs administrations and local transport associations, and transmits relevant data to all customs administrations via a dedicated software. The IRU will fund the Executive Board of the convention (in the amount of approximately US$ 550,000) in 1999–2000.

IRU-United Nations cooperation: road safety

IRU followed the work of the Working Party on Road Traffic Safety of the Economic Commission for Europe, attending its meetings, informing the members of its own road safety commission about its work, and defining with the latter standpoints to be defended at the former.

IRU also drew the attention of delegates to its own work in this field, notably relating to interface between commercial vehicle drivers and other road users, by the publication of mass-distribution leaflets addressed to young motorists and two-wheeled vehicle riders, in 1995 and 1997. It is currently finalizing a road safety management programme for road transport operators (passenger and goods transport).

The finalizing of the agreement on periodical technical inspections (for vehicles in international traffic) was welcomed for reasons of safety and fair international competition.

IRU-United Nations cooperation: international carriage of dangerous goods by road

IRU has contributed in terms of manpower and financial resources to restructuring the agreement in this area that will come into effect in 2001.

IRU took the initiative of developing a catalogue for examining drivers in dangerous goods transport in order to harmonize such examinations. This catalogue is used in most of the 33 signatory countries.

IRU-United Nations cooperation: combined transport

IRU commissioned an inventory of trans-shipment technologies in intermodal transport that was made available to ECE and evoked very positive reactions. At the suggestion of IRU, the question of liability in intermodal transport will now be addressed.

IRU-United Nations cooperation: construction of vehicles

IRU advocated the introduction of on-board-diagnostics to have engine performance at its optimal level all the time.

IRU-United Nations cooperation: sustainable development

Agenda 21

As a follow-up to UNCED, IRU developed a charter for sustainable development, pursuant to the principles of Agenda 21, as prescribed in particular, in chapters 27 and 30, which was endorsed by UNEP as well as the Secretary-General of UNCED, who presided over the IRU 1996 world congress at Budapest dedicated to sustainable development.

ECE Conference on Transport and Environment

The IRU charter was subsequently developed into a road transport industry action plan, detailing concrete measures to be taken to achieve sustainable development, which was presented to the ECE Conference on Transport and Environment at Vienna in November 1997, as a culmination of the IRU contribution as an active preparatory committee member since its inception in 1994.

UNEP industry forum

IRU continues to take an active role in UNEP's annual industry meetings to exchange views and ideas on how best to realize our common environmental, economic and social objectives.